

Wear-
Hunt House
Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-289

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
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Hunt House
Hopewell, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: Eugene C. Pomeroy

Date of Erection: 1853

Architect:

Builder: Spencer S. Weart

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The first house erected on the site of the present structure was built in 1706 by Jonathan Stout. In this house the Baptist Church of Hopewell was organized in 1715. In 1747 the Baptist decided to build a meeting house. Colonel Joseph Stout wanted this church built on a high hill on his farm, but the congregation decided to build in the valley. Stout was exasperated by this and said he would build a house for himself larger than the church, and in 1752 he built a house with a 45 foot front and a 35 foot

depth, five feet longer each way than the church. The present house may be the house that Stout built; however, there appears to be some doubt. Colonel Stout died in 1767 leaving the house to his son Joseph, Jr. In 1789 Wilson Stout conveyed the property to John Weart, Sr. According to the Honorable Jacob Weart of Jersey City, former governor of New Jersey, the house came into the possession of Spencer S. Weart in 1851. Weart was supposed to have taken it down in 1853 and replaced it on the same site with a new dwelling using much of the material of the old house.

When Washington and his army were pursuing the British across New Jersey in 1778, he had his headquarters at the Stout House. The army came from Philadelphia to Hopewell by way of Coryell's Ferry now New Hope, Pennsylvania. The whole army was encamped in or near Hopewell on June 23 and remained there on June 24, disposing of their heavy baggage, placing themselves in the best light marching order, and preparing two days extra cooked rations. A Council of War was held in the Stout House on June 24, 1778. It is called Hunt House because the two orders that Washington wrote - one on June 23 and another on June 24 - are marked "Headquarters, Hunt's House".

Bibliography:

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